RAJYA SABHA

Tuesday, the 27th July 1993/5 Sravana 1915 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock, **Mr. Chairman** in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Licence Holders of Amateur Radio/ Wireless Operators (Ham) in the country

*21. DR. SHRIKANT RAMACHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state.

(a) what is the number of amateur radio-wireless operators (Ham) licence holders in various grades in India, particularly in Maharashtra including Nagpur District, as on the 1st July, 1993;

(b) what is the criterion for getting such licences;

(c) what is the number of such radio/ wireless sets for (Ham) amateur operators which are established in the country; and

(d) whether such licence holders can own and use mobile wireless sets and if so, which laws rules and regulations govern this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

There are five grades of Licences issued under Indian Wireless Telegraphs (Amateur Service) Rules, 1978. The details of licence holders, category wise and area wise are given in the Table (I) below:—

Table -I

Number of Licenced amateur Radio operators

Area	Advanced Grade Category	Grade I Category	Grade II restricted Category	Short wave Listeners Category	Total
Nagpur District	1	5	9	2	17
Maharashtra State	42	174	375	2	593
India	346	4245	3747	77	8415

The eligibility criterion for granting such licences are specified in Rule (5) of the Indian Wireless Telegraphs (Amateur Service) Rules 1978. Such such licences are granted to a person:

(1) who is a citizen of India.

(2) who is not less than 18 years of age (relaxable to 12 years for Grade II or restricted grade of licences and 14 years for Grade I licence for competent bonafide experimenters).

(3) who qualified the amatuer station operators' examination or who holds the appropriate Certificate of Proficiency issued by this Ministry.

The examination for Amateur Station Operators Certified congists of a test in Morse, Radio Theory and Radio Regulation. The standard of examination varies according to the Grade of licence applied for.

The Ministry has issued 8415 licences for establishment of Amateur Radio Stations (Ham). The HAM activity is a hobby for self training and authorises the licences to develop their own equipment besides procuring ready built sets. As per the conditions of the licence, the licencee is required to maintain a record

of wireless sets available with him in various frequency bands, authorised for such activities.

The licence holders are permitted to operate amateur radio station only from a fixed location. However, on specific requests a permission to operate an amateur radio station in Mobile mode is granted on a case by case basis, in accordance with the provisions specified in Rule 18 of Amateur Service Rules.

DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, amateur radio-wireless operation is a very popular worldwide hobby. In the United States alone there are 50,00,000 hams. In Japan alone there are...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Will you please ask that question?

DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: I am just giving a small background because for the first time in Parliament a question about ham is being asked.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are talking about what is happening in the whole world. Please put a question.

DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Because that has a relation to what is happening in this country. In a small country like Japan there are 6 million hams. But in a large country like India up till now only 8,415 licences have been issued to amateur radio-wireless operators (Hams).

The then Prime Minister, Shri Rajivji himself was a Ham. After he became Prime Minister he had encouraged this activity.

Ham licence examination is a very simple examination of ten plus two plus three level. Part (a) of my supplementary is that when students appear for the examination with little bit of electrical and radio theory they fail time and again. I know the case of the electrical engineer, Mr. Anand, who had failed nine times.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Will you please ask a question? You should ask a question. You can't make a speech.

DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the Minister direct the chiefs of wireless monitoring stations, which number twenty-five in the country, to be very liberal in giving licences? Part (b) of the first supplementary is that after passing the examination, will they issue licences immediately? I understand that they take 1½ years to two years to issue licences.

SHRI SUKH RAM: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to the hon. Member that he has drawn my attention to this very important subject which is quite new to me. I must confess this. I agree with the hon. Member that this being a very important subject, it should be encouraged in our country. The hon. Member has mentioned about a case. I will look into it.

I can assure the hon. Member that all necessary steps will be taken to declare the results of the examination in time and whatever is possible to encourage this ham activity, will be done.

DR. SHRIKANT RAMACHANDRA JICHKAR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hams of this country are highly thankful to the hon. Minister for his assurance.

Now, my second supplementary is this. When Shri Rajivji was the Prime Minister he had brought down the customs duty on radio-wireless sets to zero. There was no customs duty. But the subsequent Governments have increased it. Will the Ministry of Telecommunications recommend to the Finance Minister—who is fortunately present in the House—To bring down the custom duty to zero as it was during Rajivji's time?

SHRI SUKH RAM: I have yet to ascertain from my department if the customs duty is reduced to zero. If it is not reduced to zero, I will have no objection to recommending the case to the hon. Finance Minister. (*Interruptions*). Of course, it is left to him to see if he agrees to my recommendation or not.

DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: We are thankful to the hon. Minister.

SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Sir, through you, I want to know this from the hon. Minister. Mine is an altogether different case. On the one hand, the Government gives licences, radio licences, to such people as the HAMs and, on the other, if somebody asks for licence for his security purposes, it refuses to give licence. There is the case of the Shiv Sena Pramukh, Shri Bal Thackeray, himself. He asked for it. Twice I recommended the case and it was refused. I want to know what exactly is there in the mind of the Government in doing so.

SHRI SUKH RAM: I have already made it clear that we will encourage the HAM operators in our country and we will do whatever is necessary for that. But, I do not know about the individual case the hon. Member mentioned. I have to ascertain it. It has to be borne in mind that the security angle is also to be taken care of while giving licences.

डा० संजय सिंह : सभापति महोदय, जैसे कि सम्मानित सदस्य श्री जिचकर जी ने जापान और अमरीका के हैम रेडियो आप्रेटर्स के सदस्यों की संख्या के बारे में बात कही। उसके अनुपात में अपने देश में बहुत कम लाइसेंस दिये गये हैं जबकि मेरी जानकारी है कि दैवी आपदाओं में दक्षिण की वो एक राज्य सरकारों ने पैसा खर्च कर के सोसाइटीज को प्रोत्साहित किया। उन्होंने ऐसा कार्य किया जो कि दैवी आपदाओं में कई बार सरकारी संस्थान भी नहीं कर सके। क्या मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जान सकता हूं अथवा यह आग्रह कर सकता हूं कि जहां-जहां बाढ़ आती है, सूखा पड़ता है, दैवी आपदाएं आती हैं, वहां सरकार की तरफ से ऐसे हम रेडियो आप्रेटर्स की सदस्यता को बढ़ाने के लिए आप अपनी तरफ से प्रयास करेंगे?

श्री सुख राम : सर, वैसे दक्षिण भारत में जैसे गुजरात है, आन्ध्र प्रदेश है, वहां तो प्रान्तीय सरकारें अनुदान भी देती हैं मगर कई दूसरे राज्यों में ऐसा नहीं है जहां अनुदान देते हों। मुझे बड़ी खुशी होगी अगर बाकी राज्य भी इसके लिए अनुदान दें क्योंकि मैं इसको बहुत बड़ी एक्टीविटी मानता हूं। जब कभी बाढ़ आती है या कोई नेचुरल केलेमिटी होती है और हमारा टेलीकम्युनिकेशन सिस्टम फेल हो जाता है तो इसके जरिये से हम कंटेक्ट इस्टेब्लिश कर सकते हैं। यह बात ठीक है दक्षिण भारत में फिर भी इसका कुछ काम है लेकिन उत्तर भारत में तो बहुत कम है। इसके लिए मैंने आश्वासन दिया है माननीय सदन को कि जो भी आवश्यक होगा और जहां जहां कमी होगी इसके लिए मैं **(व्यवधान)**

डा० संजय सिंह : भारत सरकार की तरफ से क्या आप कोई डायरेक्शन प्रदेश सरकारों को इस बारे में कार्यवाही करने के लिए देंगे?

श्री सुखराम : यह बात भी सोची जा सकती है लेकिन किस हद तक हम डायरेक्शन भेज सकते हैं यह सारी बातें एग्जामिन कर के होगी। मैंने आपको विश्वास दिलाया है कि इसके लिए जो भी मुनासिब कार्यवाही होगी, वह की जाएगी। इसके लिए एग्जामिनेशन सेंटर बढ़ाने की बात होगी, टीचर्ज ठीक ढंग से लगाने या बढ़ाने की बात होगी, इन सब को एग्जामिन कर के जो भी मुमकिन होगा वह मैं करने की कोशिश करूंगा।

श्री एस०एस० अहलुवालिया : सभापति महोदय, जहां तक इन आप्रेटर्स के लिए एग्जामिनेशन का सवाल है, विदेशों में यह लाइसेंस एग्जामिनेशन के तहत नहीं दिये जाते हैं। वहां पर एक अंडरटेकिंग देनी पड़ती है कि इसका दुरुपयोग नहीं किया जाएगा। मैं मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या यहां

पर ऐसी अंडरटेकिंग के आधार पर कि इसका दुरुपयोग नहीं होगा, आप लाइसेंस देने की सुविधा उपलब्ध करायेंगे ? मेरे प्रश्न का "ख" भाग यह है कि क्या प्रयोग के लिए आप लोक सभा के सदस्य और राज्य सभा के सदस्यों को अपने राज्य और अपने इलाकों के लोगों से सीधा सम्पर्क स्थापित करने के लिए ऐसे रेडियो के लाइसेंस की अनुमति देंगे क्योंकि आपने पिछले दिनों में एक सब्सिडाइज रेट पर हाटलाईन लगाने के लिए मेंबर आफ पार्लियामेंट के लिए एक प्रावीजन दिया था, जोकि चालू नहीं हो सका।

क्यों उस रेडियो के माध्यम से यह संचार स्थापित किया जा सकता है ?

श्री सुखराम : सभापति, मुझको नहीं मालूम कि विदेशों में उसके लिए महज़ अंडरटेकिंग देनी पड़ती है, एक्जामिनेशन नहीं होता। मगर हमारे यहां तो अभी जो कायदा है, वह एक्जामिनेशन का है और वह भी कोई बड़ा ऐसा एक्जामिनेशन नहीं है, मैट्रिकुलेशन के स्टेण्डर्ड के लोग उसमें अपियर हो जाते हैं। अब यह बात देखने की है कि आया अंडरटेकिंग पर दिया जा सकता है कि नहीं दिया जा सकता। वह बात एक्जामिन करके ही मैं कह सकता हूं। मगर जहां तक लोक सभा और राज्य सभा के सदस्यों को यह लाइसेंस देने का प्रश्न है, मुझको तो बड़ी खुशी होगी कि सभी माननीय सदस्य हैम आपरेटर बनें और जब स्व० राजीव गांधी जी हैम आपरेटर हो सकते थे, वह तो प्रधान मंत्री भी थे—हमारे जो सदस्य साहेबान हैं, वह भी उसमें रुचि लें और जितनी सुविधा विभाग से हो सकती है, वह सुविधा जुटाने की मैं पूरी कोशिश करूंगा।

Telephone services in Haryana

*22. SHRI S. S. SURJEWALA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the telephone service in Haryana (North and West) covered by Harya Telephone Circle is defective as major of the telephones remain completely partly out of order;

(b) whether it is a fact that the te phone services are suffering from a nu ber of defects, such as being held dead, getting wrong number, cross c nected, one-way speech and defective r tering, which results in excessive tel phone bills;

(c) if so, whether Government p pose to compensate the subscribers the above system faults; if so, in wl manner and under which scheme;

(d) whether it is a fact that the te phone service at Narwana, Jind is one the Circle as the telephone Exchange r chinery is out- dated and defective; ar

(e) whether Government propose convert the Exchange into electronic l change, if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF T MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIO (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir. M of telephones in North and West H yana do not remain completely or pa out of order.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise in view of above.

(d) No, Sir. Narwana Exchange commissioned in 1988 with new eq ment on completion of pre commissi ing tests. The electro-mechanical change at Jind is supplemented by 1 lines electronic exchange which serves the heavy callers.

(e) Electromechanical Exchange Jind is targetted for replacement Electronic Exchange during the 8th P There is no proposal newly installed change at Narwana at present.

श्री एस०एस० सुरजवाला : चेयरम साहब, यह इतने अच्छे मंत्री हैं, इनका जवाब टोटली नेगटिव है। मुझ यह पूरी उम्मीद है कि यह उन जवाब नहीं है, बल्कि महकमे के